how to buy a... steam mop

WANT SPOTLESS FLOORS BUT YOU'RE SICK OF SCRUBBING? WE COME CLEAN ON THE BEST NEW MACHINES TO GET THE JOB DONE.

A Model for Every Budget

1 Bionaire Steam Mop

Tank: 8 ounces

FEATURES
- Heats in 30 seconds
- Funnel included to fill tank
- 16.4' power cord

jcpenney.com

$60

2 Bissell Steam Mop Deluxe

Tank: 17.5 ounces

FEATURES
- Heats in 30 seconds
- Fills directly from the tap
- 20' power cord

target.com

$100

3 Shark Steam Pocket Mop

Tank: Just under 32 ounces

FEATURES
- Heats in 30 seconds
- 180-degree maneuverability
- 30' power cord

sharkclean.com

$120

4 Haan Duo Steam Sweeper

Tank: 11.83 ounces

FEATURES
- Heats in under 3 minutes
- Vacuum function picks up dirt while steaming
- 30' power cord

haanusa.com

$150

WHAT'S NEW Next up, lightweight portable steam models that clean table tops, walls, tubs and showers. Also, machines with suction power, combining sweeper and mop in one.

what it is

- A mop with the chemical-free cleaning power of steam. Attach the cleaning pad to the head, add tap or distilled water to the tank and plug in.
- Effective on hard surfaces such as tile, laminate, vinyl and sealed hardwood floors.

what to look for

EXTRAS
Some models come with a range of heads—like extra-wide—to clean large areas. Others swivel for use behind and under furniture and in corners. A carpet attachment can eliminate light stains from low-pile rugs.

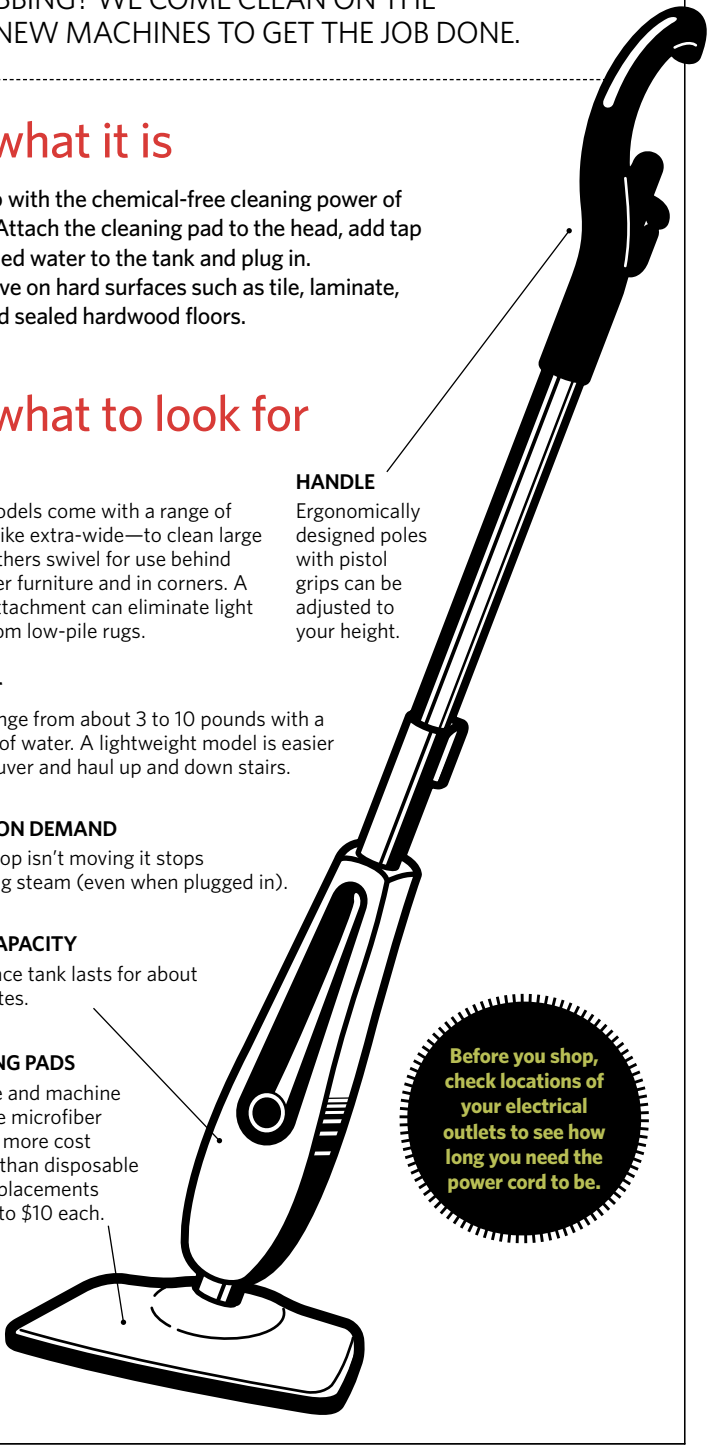
HANDLE
Ergonomically designed poles with pistol grips can be adjusted to your height.

WEIGHT
Mops range from about 3 to 10 pounds with a full tank of water. A lightweight model is easier to maneuver and haul up and down stairs.

STEAM ON DEMAND
When mop isn't moving it stops producing steam (even when plugged in).

TANK CAPACITY
A 12-ounce tank lasts for about 20 minutes.

CLEANING PADS
Reusable and machine washable microfiber pads are more cost efficient than disposable ones. Replacements from $6 to $10 each.



Before you shop, check locations of your electrical outlets to see how long you need the power cord to be.

illustration by **Colin Hayes**